

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:

a ceramic block comprising a plurality of ~~rectangular~~ columnar porous ceramic members combined with one another by a sealing material layer, each of the ~~rectangular~~ columnar porous ceramic members having a plurality of through holes extending parallel with one another in a length direction of the ceramic block and separated by a partition wall interposed between the through holes; and

a circumferential sealing material layer formed on a circumference portion of said ceramic block,

wherein said partition wall functions as a filter for collecting particulates, and on a cross section perpendicular to the length direction of said ceramic block, said sealing material layer includes at least one crisscross portion in which a maximum width L of the crisscross portion of said sealing material layer is 1.5 to 3 times greater than a minimum width l of said sealing material layer.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein an outer circumferential face in the length direction has a curved face.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein said at least one crisscross portion of said sealing material layer includes a plurality of crisscross portions in which a maximum width L of the crisscross

portions of said sealing material layer is 1.5 to 3 times greater than the minimum width  $l$  of said sealing material layer.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst supporting film applied to the porous ceramic member.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst applied to the porous ceramic member.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst supporting film applied to the sealing material layer.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst applied to the sealing material layer.

Claim 8 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of columnar porous ceramic members has a cross-sectional shape that is rectangular with a chamfered face formed at each corner.

Claim 9 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 8, wherein the porous ceramic members are evenly aligned.

Claim 10 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 9, wherein the chamfered face is a curved surface and a size of the curved surface having a length R which satisfies the relationship

$$L = \sqrt{(l + 2 \times R)^2 + l^2}$$

for L being 1.5 to 3 times greater than l.

Claim 11 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 9 wherein the chamfered face is a flat surface having a length C which satisfies the relationship

$$L = \sqrt{(l + 2 \times C)^2 + l^2}$$

for L being 1.5 to 3 times greater than l.

Claim 12 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 8, wherein the porous ceramic members are offset from one another.

Claim 13 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 12, wherein the chamfered face has a length R which satisfies the relationship

$$L = \sqrt{(l + 2 \times R)^2 + l^2}$$

for L being 1.5 to 3 times greater than l.

Claim 14 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of columnar porous ceramic members has a cross-sectional shape that is hexagonal with a chamfered face formed at each corner.

Claim 15 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 14, wherein the chamfered face has a length R which satisfies the relationship

$$L = l + R$$

for L being 1.5 to 3 times greater than l.

Claim 16 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of columnar porous ceramic members has a cross-sectional shape that is rhombic without a chamfered face formed at each corner.

Claim 17 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 16, wherein an angle  $\alpha$  of each corner is an acute apex and satisfies the relationship

$$L = \frac{l}{\sin \alpha} \sqrt{2(1 + \cos \alpha)}$$

for L being 1.5 to 3 times greater than l.

Claim 18 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of columnar porous ceramic members has a cross-sectional shape that is triangular without a chamfered face formed at each corner.

Claim 19 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 18, wherein each of the plurality of columnar porous ceramic members is

$$L = 2 \times l$$

for L being 1.5 to 3 times greater than l.

Claim 20 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein said at least one crisscross portion of said sealing material layer includes multiple crisscross portions in which a maximum width  $L$  of the crisscross portions of said sealing material layer is 1.5 to 3 times greater than the minimum width  $l$  of said sealing material layer for all crisscross portions.